GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4646
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
PASSENGER TRAFFIC IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR
Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the passenger traffic between the island territory of Andaman and Nicobar and the mainland Indian Ports during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of the local natives, tourists and employment related passengers among the outgoing passengers;

(c) whether there are sufficient Port facilities and passenger ships to meet the existing demands of passenger movements and cargo movements of the territory;

(d) the number of ships which are operating between the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and mainland Ports and the number of ships which are operating between Port Blair and other islands;

(e) the number of ships of Andaman and Nicobar Islands which are under repair; and

(f) the time by which this repair work is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a): The passenger traffic between the island territory of Andaman & Nicobar and mainland Indian Ports in the last three years is as under:-

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2003-2004 Port Blair - Chennai -Port Blair - 102826
  Port Blair - Kolkata -Port Blair - 59272
  Port Blair - Visakhapatnam -Port Blair - 17940
2004-2005 Port Blair - Chennai -Port Blair - 95547
  Port Blair - Kolkata -Port Blair - 60191
  Port Blair - Visakhapatnam -Port Blair - 22507
2005-2006 Port Blair - Chennai -Port Blair - 94272
  Port Blair - Kolkata -Port Blair - 59471
  Port Blair - Visakhapatnam -Port Blair - 16640
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(b): The details of passengers as local native, tourists and employment related passengers are not ascertained while issuing tickets.

(c) & (d): Port facilities to meet the existing demand of passenger movement and cargo movement were available through 56 berthing structure namely 8 mainland-island wharves / jetties, 14 inter-island jetties, 7 vehicle ferry jetties and 27 local ferry jetties prior to the Tsunami that occurred on 26.12.2004. Tsunami caused severe damage to the port infrastructural facilities. Thereafter restoration activities were geared up in a time bound manner to ensure that minimum port facilities to meet the demand are available.

At present five Ships are operating between A&N Islands to Mainland ports and 78 vessels are operating between Port Blair and other Islands, which includes passenger, cargo, touring vessels and other utility vessels which are adequate to meet the demand.

(e): At present 28 vessels are under repair / Annual Passenger Ship Survey.

(f): It is a continuing process however average period taken for repair / Annual maintenance of vessels is 5 − 6 months.